



BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

ANNUAL
REPORT

of

Medical Officer of Health

for

1939.

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer, Medical
Officer—Maternity and
Child Welfare.



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LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE CHATHAM COUNCIL.

The Mayor,
(Councillor J. T. Hawes, J.P.)

The Deputy Mayor
(Councillor H. J. Stearne)

Alderman W. J. Webb, J.P.

Alderman H. J. Cloake

Alderman Osborn Taylor, O.B.E.

Alderman A. B. Walker

Alderman F. G. Luff

Alderman E. G. Maynard

Councillor W. J. Hedge, J.P.

Councillor R. F. Brain, C.C.

Councillor F. H. Lawrence

Councillor Mrs. F. M. Freeman

Councillor W. F. Hollands

Councillor M. Packer

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Councillor P. Blackmore.

Councillor J. Bray, J.P.

Councillor F. O. Harris.

Councillor G. W. Hitches

Councillor A. E. Lake

Councillor W. T. Davis

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

This consists of the whole of the members of the Council.
(Chairman—Alderman H. J. CLOAKE).

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

This consists of the members of the Public Health Committee with the following co-opted members:—Mesdames E. M. CROOKS, B. A. LEWIS, A. M. LUCAS, H. J. STEARNE, and STAYLAERS.
(Chairman—Councillor Mrs. F. M. FREEMAN).

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health,

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health,

WILLIAM AINSLIE,

L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.R.F.P. and S., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon,

William C. GRIFFITHS, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.)

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

THOMAS HOWARD (a) (b)

Senior District Sanitary Inspector,

A. W. R. TURNBULL (a) (b)

District Sanitary Inspectors,

W. JOHNSON (a)

F. W. I. WHITEHOUSE (a) (b) (f)

Senior Health Visitor,

Miss K. L. HESTER (c) (d) (e,

Health Visitors,

Miss M. HINBEST (c) (d) (e)

Miss P. L. REGAN (c) (d) (e)

Miss M. HARVEY (c) (d) (e). Appointed 1.3.1939.

Mrs. F. E. GAFFNEY (d)

Chief Clerk,

H. L. CLARK

Clerks,

G. A. PEARSON

A. C. STRIKE

Miss N. CHURCH

Miss E. ROGERS

Clinic Clerk,

Miss L. HYDE

Dental Attendant,

Miss J. E. ROBERTS

(a) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

(b) Meat Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

(c) State Registered Nurse.

(d) State Certified Midwife.

(e) Health Visitors Certificate.

(f) Sanitary Science Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Borough of Chatham.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Chatham.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1939. In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health the report this year has been severely cut down but all important developments and changes have been inserted.

Fortunately, 1939 was reasonably free from epidemics, the Diphtheria epidemic of 1937-38 dying out in the early part of this year. I only hope 1940 will be likewise but the overcrowding and lack of ventilation in A.R.P. shelters is very conducive to the spread of air borne infection. These shelters were designed to be occupied for short periods only, but with recent developments in night raids they are occupied as more or less permanent sleeping quarters.

I would call special attention to the marked decrease in the Infant Mortality rate. It may be reasonably assumed that this is due to the efficient Child Welfare services. The Maternity death rate is also very satisfactory.

Several fairly large Clearance Areas were in prospect but the outbreak of war put a stop to all of them.

Since September a very large proportion of my time has had to be devoted to A.R.P., and to Dr. Ainslie is due the efficient way in which the various Clinics, etc., were run in a time of great difficulty.

All the Staff, without exception, have put in many hours overtime cheerfully and willingly and to them I would put on record my deep appreciation and thanks.

I have received at all times the full support of the Council, even when in the stress of war, I have had to do things first and ask confirmation after—a most irregular procedure in normal times but sometimes necessary in war. For this unfailing support and help, Madam and Gentlemen, I thank you.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. SLEIGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Chatham.

15th October, 1940.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	4,356
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (Middle of 1939)	45,490
Average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	43,310
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books	12,097
Rateable Value	£273,062
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,020

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Chatham is not a residential area, the chief source of industry being the Dockyard. The population is chiefly trading and industrial together with persons belonging to the armed forces of the country and pensioners.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The returns for 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1939 at the end of December, in each year, are as follows:—

	Men	Women	
		Boys	Girls
1935	3113		435
1936	2034		424
1937	2406		732
1938	2216		758
1939	352		366

Respecting Juvenile Employment, the following figures are available:—

	Number on Register	
	Boys	Girls
1935	104	343
1936	50	177
1937	45	170
1938	28	145
1939	88	244

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

		M.	F.	Total
Live Births	Legitimate ...	371	303	674
	Illegitimate ...	22	14	36
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1939	...	...	...	16.1
Stillbirths	...	10	13	23
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...			31.3
Deaths	...	320	216	536
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population				12.4

DEATHS FROM PUEPERAL CAUSES.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (total live and still births)
Puerperal Sepsis	1	1.4
Other Puerperal Causes	1	1.4
Total	2	2.8

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	36.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				36.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil

DEATHS FROM:—

Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	65
Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Coughs (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	3

BIRTHS.

The number of births recorded is 681, as compared with 717 in 1938.

DEATHS.

There were 536 deaths. During the previous five years there were:—

1934	...	...	...	521
1935	...	...	...	493
1936	...	...	...	529
1937	...	...	...	559
1938	...	...	...	551

The number of deaths occurring each month, at different age groups was as follows:—

Age	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Age grp. total
All un- der 1 yr.	2	1	4	2	3	3	1	2	4	—	—	5	27
1—2	2	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
2—3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
5—10	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	5
10—15	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
15—20	—	2	3	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	9
20—25	3	2	4	2	2	1	1	2	—	1	—	1	19
25—35	3	4	—	2	1	2	4	2	—	—	1	1	20
35—45	2	2	—	2	—	1	2	1	3	1	—	2	16
45—65	16	20	17	3	8	15	13	13	11	10	10	17	153
65—ovr.	41	29	31	16	20	25	15	12	20	22	17	27	275
Monthly totals	69	63	61	30	36	49	37	34	39	34	30	54	536

TOTAL DEATHS, 1939.

	Chatham M.B.					M.	F.		
	Causes of Death								
	All Causes	..	..	..	..
1.	Typhoid Fever, etc.	..	..	..	..	—	—
2.	Measles	..	..	..	..	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	1	1
5.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	1	—
6.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	1	4
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	—	—
8.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	—	—
9.	Respiratory Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	17	10
10.	Other Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	3	—
11.	Syphilis	..	..	..	..	2	2
12.	Gen. Paralysis of Insane, Tabes, etc.	..	..	..	..	1	—
13.	Cancer	..	..	..	..	43	22
14.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	5	1
15.	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	..	..	..	..	10	15
16.	Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	79	76
17.	Aneurysm	..	..	..	..	—	—
18.	Other Circ. Diseases	..	..	..	..	12	14
19.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	8	5
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	20	7
21.	Other Resp. Diseases	..	..	..	..	6	1
22.	Peptic Ulcer	..	..	..	..	5	—
23.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	..	..	..	..	1	2
24.	Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	2	—
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..	..	1	—
26.	Other Liver Diseases	..	..	..	..	—	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	..	..	..	..	6	1
28.	Ac. and Chr. Nephritis	..	..	..	..	8	6
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	—	1
30.	Other Puerperal Diseases	..	..	..	..	—	1
31.	Con. Deb., Prem. Birth, etc.	..	..	..	..	10	7
32.	Senility	..	..	..	..	14	11
33.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	4	2
34.	Other violence	..	..	..	..	26	10
35.	Other Defd. Diseases	..	..	..	..	32	15
36.	Ill Defined or N.K.	..	..	..	..	—	—
	Special Causes (included in No. 35)	..	..	..	..	—	—
	Smallpox	..	..	..	..	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	—	—
	Polio-encephalitis	..	..	..	..	—	—
	Deaths of Infants	} Total	..	..	..	13	13
	under 1 year		Legitimate	..	..	13	13
			Illegitimate	..	..	—	—
						M * F	M ** F		
	Live Births	} Total	..	..	..	381	393
			Legitimate	..	..	360	371
			Illegitimate	..	..	21	22
	Still Births	} Total	..	..	..	10	13
			Legitimate	..	..	10	10
			Illegitimate	..	..	—	3
	RESIDENT POPULATION	..	..	..	..		45,490

* For calculating Infant and Maternal Mortality

** For calculating birth rates

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The bacteriological examinations of throat swabs, sputum, blood, milk, water or other suspected material are carried out in the County Council Laboratory at Maidstone.

Chemical examinations are done by the County Analyst.

There is no delay in sending results.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

On the outbreak of war the Borough and one of the two St. John ambulances became part of the A.R.P. Ambulance Services. This involved no change in their duties until a "Red" warning is sounded. Thereupon they stand by their post and do not move except under orders from A.R.P. Control.

A.R.P. CASUALTY SERVICES.

The casualty service in Chatham is organised on a different basis from most areas, in that each of the four fixed First Aid Posts is complete in itself by having attached to it First Aid Parties and ambulances instead of the parties and ambulances being stationed at separate Depots. In addition at Holcombe is stationed the Mobile Unit.

The four Posts are shown below together with the number of First Aid Parties, ambulances and cars for sitting casualties on a whole-time basis attached to each.

	Post	Commandant	First Aid Parties.	Mobile Ambu- Unit.	Ambu- lances	Sitting Casualty Cars.
(1)	Elm House, New Road Ave.	Mr. Hancox	4	—	2	2
(2)	Luton Junior Boys' School	Miss Baker	4	—	3	2
(3)	County Hospital, Magpie Hall Rd.	Mrs. Green	4	—	2	2
(4)	Holcombe Junior Tech- nical School.	Mrs. Vickery	3	1	3	1
	Totals		15	1	10	7

Each is under the command of a Commandant who holds a very difficult and responsible position, and one Medical Officer is attached to each in a part-time capacity.

The system works well. The First Aid Parties and indoor personnel are, to a large extent, interchangeable with mutual benefit.

In addition to the fully paid staff we have about an equal number of enthusiastic and skilled part-time volunteers whose services have been invaluable.

Right from the beginning the great difficulty was to obtain men and it was found necessary to make up First Aid Parties with suitable women. Experience in recent raids has proved the wisdom of this step. Not one woman member of a First Aid Party has failed and they have had some gory cases to deal with.

I have reason to be proud of my First Aid Parties men and women.

Unfortunately it was laid down that Public Health Clinics should be the first choice for First Aid Posts. Elm House, where the clinics are held, could never be laid out satisfactorily for a First Aid Post. In addition the holding of clinics was made unnecessarily difficult. Plans have now been submitted to Region for the transfer of this First Aid Post to St. Mary's School and it is to be sincerely hoped that this proposal will be approved.

It will have the additional advantage that in the event of telephones being put out of order, one First Aid Post, complete with First Aid Parties and ambulances will be next door to the control room.

Though so far we have had no major disasters the number of casualties dealt with up to date (15.10.40) being about 100 including 11 dead, it can safely be stated that the long months of waiting and training have been by no means wasted and that the Casualty Service to-day is well equipped and thoroughly efficient. There is still however a great shortage of ambulance drivers.

I am indebted to the staff of the Public Health Department for the loyal and whole-hearted manner in which they one and all have assisted me in the work of the casualty service.

1. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Up till war was declared the following clinics were held:—

- (a) Ante Natal Clinic—Every Thursday 2—4.30 p.m.
" Tuesday 10.30 a.m.—1 p.m.
- (b) Children under 5 years of age.
 - Mondays (weighing and food tickets only)
2—4.30 p.m.
 - Tuesdays 2—4.30 p.m.
 - Fridays 2—4.30 p.m.
- (c) Mothercraft Mondays 2—4.30 p.m.
- (d) Dental. By appointment only.
- (e) A combined Child Welfare and Ante Natal Clinic is held at the Methodist Hall, Walderslade, on the last Monday of each month.

2. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Wednesdays 2—4.30 p.m.

3. SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

- (a) Minor ailments and Medical Inspection, 9—9.45 a.m. daily.
- (b) Dental, daily by appointment, 9—4.30 p.m.
- (c) Refraction 1 session each week by appointment.
- (d) Medical Inspection at Schools. 4 sessions per week by appointment.

4. TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY, 13, NEW ROAD, ROCHESTER.

Tuesdays, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Fridays, 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

5. TREATMENT CENTRE FOR VENEREAL DISEASES, 36, NEW ROAD, ROCHESTER.

Tuesdays and Thursdays for consultations.

Daily for treatment.

Nos. 1, 2 and 3 are provided by the Council and the Education Committee.

Nos. 4 and 5 are provided by the Kent County Council.

On the outbreak of war clinics had to be suspended. Gradually, as circumstances permitted, they were resumed till, by the end of the year, we were back pretty well to normal. The Ante-Natal Clinic however, had to be restricted to every Tuesday, 10.30 a.m.—1 p.m., and during actual Air Raid Alarms clinics are shut because:—

- (1) The staff are required at their First Aid Posts and
- (2) The available shelter is very limited.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS OR CHILDREN.

Beds are available at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and the County Hospital for acute illness. If convalescent care is needed it is secured at a suitable Institution and a Cot Fund is available.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The requirements of this Act, which extends to children under the age of 9 years, who are received for reward, necessitates frequent inspection to see that the premises are suitable and that the children are properly cared for.

Number of children on the Register on 1st January, 1939	8
Number of children on the Register on 31st December, 1939	7
Number of reception notices received	3
Number of removal notices	4
(1) to other addresses in the Borough	1
(2) to addresses outside the Borough	3
Number of visits paid by Health Visitors	21

HEALTH VISITORS.

The Health Visitors have in addition to their normal duties each been appointed as the Nurse at a First Aid Post.

This has involved many hours spent in helping to train the A.R.P. personnel with results shown so clearly in the excellent manner in which these Posts have dealt with Air Raid Casualties.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

Total number of live births notified ...	...	...	681
Births notified by midwives ...	...	...	383
Birth notified by doctors ...	...	...	46
Births notified in County Hospital ...	...	...	144
Births notified in Royal Naval Maternity Home	...	74	
Births notified in Military Families' Hospital ...	...	3	
Births notified in other Homes or Hospitals ...	...	31	
Stillbirths ...	...	...	16

NOTIFIED BIRTHS, HOME ADDRESS NOT IN CHATHAM

Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	255
County Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	...	253
Other Homes or Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Midwives	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

WARDS.

St. Mary's ...	...	82	Christchurch	...	106
St. John's ...	...	136	Luton	...	128
St. Michael's	...	92	St. Paul's	...	137
Total :—					681

VISITS.

Month	Total Home Visits	Child Welfare			Ante Natal	
		0 — 1	1st	sub.	1 — 5	1st
Jan.	188	56	69	100	3	1
Feb.	130	43	47	59	4	2
Mar.	489	141	240	251	7	19
April	461	61	192	274	9	19
May	396	69	174	234	6	10
June	429	60	217	261	7	8
July	610	88	264	334	20	7
Aug.	417	71	19	197	183	3
Sept.	463	78	212	147	5	7
Oct.	660	79	336	279	8	12
Nov.	304	42	120	120	4	5
Dec.	347	27	188	161	4	6
Total	4,894	815	2,078	2,417	260	99

CLINICS.

Month	Child Welfare				Ante Natal		Post Natal
	Total atten.		New Cases		1st attend.	subs.	
	0—1	1—5	0—1	1—5			
Jan.	401	303	35	19	43	97	4
Feb.	380	265	37	23	36	84	6
Mar.	473	295	37	24	30	122	5
April.	377	226	29	25	26	79	2
May	523	252	47	21	31	94	2
June	543	239	49	28	37	115	4
July	575	221	43	12	20	76	1
Aug.	198	97	21	3	21	78	2
Sept.	107	34	9	1	5	20	—
Oct.	207	66	18	1	27	46	1
Nov.	250	93	29	3	14	33	1
Dec.	177	52	19	3	8	25	4
Total	4211	2143	373	163	298	869	32

DENTAL TREATMENT.

Below is Mr. Griffith's Report:—

ADULTS.

Number treated	...	...	...	...	48
Attendances	...	...	...	...	143
Extractions	...	...	...	...	217
Fillings	...	...	...	...	21

INFANTS.

Number treated	...	...	...	...	72
Attendances	...	...	...	...	139
Extractions	...	...	...	...	211
Number of Gas Cases	...	...	...	...	63
Fillings	...	...	...	...	21

As I pointed out in my report for 1938, there is very great need for the supply of artificial dentures and until this is met we cannot consider that we are giving adequate dental attention to those who need it badly. Possibly some help might be forthcoming in this respect from one of the charitable funds, so that the cost of the laboratory process may be met at no charge to the Council.

WILLIAM C. GRIFFITHS,

Dental Surgeon

Chatham.

29th April, 1940.

INFANTILE MORTALITY 1939 CAUSES OF DEATH.

		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Measles	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tubercular Meningitis	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (Non-Tubercular)	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoeal Diseases	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation (overlaying)	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at Birth	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	4
Premature Birth	9	—	2	—	—	11	1	—	—	—	12
Atrophy, Debility	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marasmus	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	..	13	4	—	2	19	3	1	3	1	27

The infantile mortality figure 36 per 1,000 is by far the lowest on record, the previous best being 43 in 1930 and the average for the last ten years being 55.7. This marked decrease shows clearly the results of our work in the Child Welfare and other clinics.

It should be noted too that of the 27 deaths which occurred 12 were due to Premature Birth, 4 to Congenital Malformation and 1 to Atelectasis, that is 17 were due to causes over which at present, we have little or no control.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths occurring during pregnancy and childbirth are investigated by the Medical Officer of Health.

- (a) Number of women who died in, or in consequence of, childbirth in the area served by the Council:—
 - (i) from sepsis:—1. (ii) from other causes:—1.
- (b) Number of these cases which died:—
 - (i) at home:—Nil. (ii) in institutions:—2.

ISSUE OF FRESH MILK AND DRIED FOODS.

	Free	Half-price	Clinic Price
Dried Foods (1 lb. packets)	670	104	4,968
Fresh Milk (pints) ...	33,730	9,496	—
Cod Liver Oil and Malt ...	—	—	—
Cod Liver Oil Emulsion	—	—	—
and Cit. of Soda	—	—	—
(1lb. cartons and boxes of 100)	20	—	19

INSPECTION OF WOMEN'S CONVENIENCES.

The Senior Health Visitor paid 18 visits for this purpose.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

RAINFALL DURING 1939.

I am indebted to A. E. Watkins, Esq., B.Sc., A.M. Inst. C.E., M.Inst.W.E., for the following figures taken at Luton Waterworks.

Rain Gauge:—Diameter of Funnel 5 in.

Height of top above ground, 3ft. 0in.

Height of ground above sea level, 88ft.

Month	Total Depth	Greatest Fall in 24 hours		Number of days with		
		Inches	Inches	Date	.01 in.	.04 in. or more
Jan.	..... 4.00		.60	25	22	18
Feb.	..... 1.36		.44	28	9	8
Mar.	..... 1.48		.32	11	17	10
Apr.	..... 2.58		.81	30	14	11
May	..... 1.90		1.01	15	5	4
June	..... 1.54		.38	10	11	8
July	..... 1.92		.47	31	15	11
Aug.	..... 2.78		1.58	4	13	9
Sept.	..... 1.08		.33	21	11	8
Oct.	..... 8.06		2.00	13	21	20
Nov.	..... 4.14		.50	9	23	20
Dec.	..... 1.31		.36	3	12	9
Total	..... 32.15				173	136

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

The water supply is from deep wells in the chalk. Experience here and elsewhere shows that such a water is liable to pollution through contamination of the surface of the gathering area, in this case from the top of Blue Bell Hill to the Medway. In this area are situated many houses not connected to the main drainage but relying on cesspools most of which are by no means watertight. There are, therefore, obvious possibilities of pollution of the water supply through fissures, etc., which are known to exist in all chalk formations. It has been necessary therefore to chlorinate the water supply to ensure an adequate degree of safety, and this has given rise to complaints regarding the taste.

Every endeavour is made to obviate this taste as far as possible and at any rate it is better to have occasionally some slight taste than to run the risk of a typhoid epidemic.

The water supply is common to the three towns and in conjunction with the Medical Officers of Health of Rochester and Gillingham, samples are taken of each source of supply 6 times a month for Bacteriological Analysis. In all cases the treated water has been shown to be of a very high state of Bacterial purity though occasionally the raw water has shown evidence of pollution.

I have to thank the Water Company for their whole-hearted co-operation in securing a safe water for human consumption.

SCHOOLS, SANITARY CONDITION AND WATER SUPPLY

The Sanitary condition and water supply in schools have been maintained in a satisfactory condition during the year. The Chief Sanitary Inspector makes periodical visits for this purpose.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1939

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I beg to submit my report on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors and Sanitary Depot for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

DRAINAGE CONNECTIONS TO THE CORPORATION SEWERS

During the year 1939 a further 359 houses were connected to the Corporation Foul Sewers making a total of 11,083, or over 90 per cent of the houses in the Borough. All new houses erected were, with the exception of 9, connected to the foul sewers. These 9 houses were drained into water tight cesspools—no sewers being available.

CESSPOOL WORK

Complaints of choked drains were received on 904 occasions and, on inspection, 219 of these drains were choked owing to the cesspool being full. Obstructions from drains were cleared on 647 occasions and 38 bath and sink waste pipes were also cleared.

The number of cesspools emptied was 402 and the amount of work entailed was, the removal of 5,720 tins of sewerage and 801 loads of liquid sewage. During February one of the horse drawn tanks was converted and used in conjunction with the Fordson lorry and at the same time the emptying of cesspools by night ceased. This reorganisation enabled the emptying capacity of the existing plant to be doubled and the hiring of horse transport was dispensed with. Extensions to the public sewers in Maidstone Road and Walderslade Road were carried out and facilities were made available to many more houses.

Good progress was being made with the action that was taken under Section 50 of the Public Health Act, 1936, until the outbreak of hostilities occurred. During the year, 102 notices were served and 71 houses were connected to the foul sewers. Owners were quick to realise that it was cheaper and easier to connect the drainage system of their houses to the Corporation sewers than attempt to make an existing cesspool water-tight.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES

There are 7 registered cow-keepers and 14 registered cow-sheds in the Borough. On the register are:—

- 1 Producer of Accredited Milk.
- 3 Wholesale Producers.
- 35 Retail Purveyors of milk of which 15 are situated out of the Borough.
- 1 Purveyor of Accredited, Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk—situated outside the Borough.
- 134 Purveyors of bottled milk (sterilised).

ANALYSIS OF WATER AND MILK

The following samples were taken during the year:—

44 water samples for Bacteriological Examination.

15 Milk samples for Bacteriological Examination.

3 Milk samples for Biological Examination.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Previous to October 1st, 1939, the number on the register was 7 registered and 1 licensed, and applications from 7 of these for licensing under the Food & Drugs Act were received. One application was refused so there remains on the register 6 licensed slaughterhouses.

It would have been necessary for repairs and alterations to have been carried out at these premises, but owing to the outbreak of hostilities and the anticipated action of the Ministry of Food in requisitioning one or two of them and the consequent closing (for slaughter) of others it was decided to withhold the schedule of necessary repairs and alterations. A letter was sent to each owner informing them that the granting of the licence was not in any way to be regarded as an admission by the Council that the premises were satisfactory and was without prejudice to whatever action it was decided to take at a later date.

The amount of slaughter was again an increase on the year 1938 and every effort is made to inspect all the animals slaughtered. The bulk of the inspection takes place in the evening and combined with the "black-out" conditions imposed a severe strain on the inspectors who are responsible for this duty. There was an increase in the quantity of food voluntarily surrendered.

UNSOULD FOOD SURRENDERED, 1939

Bovine Carcasses and Offals	...	Tuberculosis	...	...	40
" Forequarters	...	...	"	...	34
" Briskets	...	...	"	...	7
" Lungs	...	...	"	...	226
" Livers	...	...	"	...	45
" Heads and Tongues	...	...	"	...	131
" Stomachs	...	...	"	...	7
" Mesenteries and Intestines	...	...	"	...	25
" Kidneys	...	...	"	...	8
Calf Carcase and Offal	...	...	"	...	1
Pig Carcasses and Offals	...	...	"	...	5
" Heads	...	...	"	...	122
" Lungs	...	...	"	...	20
" Livers	...	...	"	...	19
" Mesenteries and Intestines	...	...	"	...	4
Bovine Carcasses and Offals	...	Emaciation and T.B.	...	...	1
" "	"	Mastitis and Gangrene	...	...	1
" "	"	Johne's Disease and Emaciation	...	...	1
" Lungs	...	Pneumonia	...	...	1
" "	...	Pleurisy	...	...	2

Bovine Lungs	...	...	...	Ecchinococcus Cysts	...	5
"	"	...	...	Abscesses	...	2
"	"	...	...	Emphysema	...	1
"	Liver	...	...	Abscesses	...	17
"	"	...	...	Cirrhosis	...	39
"	"	...	...	Cavernous Angioma	...	15
"	"	...	...	Echinococcus Cyst	...	3
"	"	...	...	Cloudy Swelling	...	1
"	"	...	...	Inflammation	...	1
"	Head and Tongue	...	...	Abscesses	...	2
"	"	"	...	Actinomycosis	...	3
"	Mesenteries	...	...	Peritonitis	...	1
"	Udders	...	...	Mammitis	...	4
"	"	...	...	Abscesses	...	1
"	Hearts	...	...	Pericarditis	...	4
Sheep	Carcases and Offals	...	...	Oedema	...	27
"	"	"	...	Fevered	...	1
"	Lungs	...	...	Pneumonia	...	1
"	"	...	...	Abscesses	...	3
"	Livers	...	...	Echinococcus Cyst	...	8
"	"	...	...	Distomatosis	...	21
"	"	...	...	Strongylus	...	8
"	Plucks	...	...	Parasitic	...	1
"	"	...	...	Abscesses	...	1
Pig	Carcase and Offal	...	...	Acute Peritonitis	...	3
"	"	"	...	Fevered	...	3
"	"	"	...	Jaundice	...	1
"	"	"	...	Emaciation	...	1
"	"	"	...	Pyæmia and Emaciation	...	1
"	Lungs	...	...	Pneumonia	...	13
"	Livers	...	...	Cirrhosis	...	50
"	Plucks	...	...	Parasitic	...	1
"	"	...	...	Inflammation	...	10
"	Heads and Tongues	...	...	Abscesses	...	4
"	Kidney	...	...	Nephritis	...	1
Neck of Beef	...	...	...	Bruising	...	1
Leg and Loin of Pork	...	...	...	Bruising and injury	...	
Bovine Hindquarter	...	...	...	Bone Taint	...	
"	Rump and Loin	...	...	Bone Taint	...	
Target of Mutton	...	...	...	Pleurisy	...	
Forequarter of Mutton	...	...	...	Pleurisy	...	
Set of Middle Ribs of Beef	...	...	...	Fibrosis	...	
Ribs and flank of cow	...	...	...	Inflammatory condition	...	
Leg of Veal	...	...	...	Abscesses	...	
Barrel of Potatoes	...	...	...	Bacteriosis.	...	

DECOMPOSITION ETC.

Pig carcase, 1; Pig Plucks, 90; Bovine Udders, 4; Parcels of Beef Joints and Trimmings, 27; Bovine Hindquarter, 1; Bovine Livers, 21;

Lambs Livers, 168; Bovine Kidneys, 108; Pigs Kidneys, 40; Parcel of Pork Trimmings, 1; Rabbits, 430; Tin of Jellied Veal, 1; Tins of Corned Beef, 3; Tin of Pressed Beef, 1; Tin of Ox Tongue, 1; Parcels of Fish, 8; Boxes of Prunes, 6.

Total weight of food surrendered: 22 tons, 14 cwts., 2 qrs., 9 lbs., of which 18 tons, 4 cwts., 14 lbs., was condemned for Tuberculosis.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number inspected ...	712	925	743	6,267	9,332	17,979
All diseases except Tuberculosis						
Whole carcases condemned	—	2	—	28	10	40
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	26	50	1	44	65	186
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis	3.7 %	5.6 %	0.1 %	1.1 %	0.1 %	1.3 %
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	6	35	1	—	5	47
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	52	242	—	—	145	439
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	8.1 %	29.9 %	0.1 %	—	1.6 %	2.7 %

BAKEHOUSES

There are in the Borough 18 bakehouses.

FISH OFFAL COLLECTION

Fish offal from fish shops and fish friers is collected daily under contract. The contractor makes a charge for collection and a grant is also made by the Council. The arrangement is working satisfactorily and there is a financial saving to the Council.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There have been notified 58 cases of Scarlet Fever, 86 cases of Diphtheria and of these 24 cases of Scarlet Fever and 80 cases of Diphtheria were removed to hospital. The number of loads of bedding removed for disinfection was 127. Infectious disease occurred at the home of one outworker. The number of rooms disinfected was

30. Rooms are not disinfected after cases of Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria. Library books from cases were disinfected on 61 occasions and these belonged to Public Library 35, Private Library 15 and School Library 11.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are 3 common Lodging Houses in the Borough. The decline in the number of lodgers which has been apparent for some time, still continues.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS

On the register are 8 of these premises and only one house is capable of holding more than 3 families. They are usually occupied by aged persons and the tenants are continually changing.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are 23 Fish Friers, 1 Knacker Yard and horse Slaughter-house, and 4 Marine Store dealers in the Borough. The advance which modern fish frying ranges have made has done much to minimise the nuisances that existed in these businesses, but it is still thought advisable that they should be under the control of the Local Sanitary Authority. The Gut Factory fell into disuse during the year.

MORTUARY

During the year the number of bodies removed to the mortuary was 31 on which 28 post mortems were carried out. No bodies were buried at the expense of the parish.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF ANIMALS

During the year a suspected case of Anthrax and one of Swine Fever were reported but neither were confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938

No bovine animal within the Borough was reported during the year under this Order. Several cases of cows from outside the district were slaughtered in Chatham and the carcasses dealt with.

VERMIN

During the year it became the practice for persons who became tenants of new Council Houses to have their furniture and effects removed by a cyanide van and their bedding put through the steam disinfector. Inspections of these premises at a later date proved the value of this. After the outbreak of hostilities, it was deemed inadvisable to continue this method owing to the lack of ventilation caused by the compulsory black-out.

The number of rooms fumigated for vermin was 352. Included in this number were 185 rooms in Council Houses. There were also 106 loads of bedding treated by steam for vermin. Each room is

treated at leased twice with the fumigant; it will be realised the large amount of work and time which the Sanitary Inspectors and employees of the Sanitary Depot devoted to the eradication of vermin.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1939

	Rats Caught.	Baits Laid.	Visits made.
Dwelling Houses	173	423	849
Shops, Stores etc.	59	236	288
Bradfields Wood Bank	7	—	3
Corporation Refuse Shoot	653	—	209
Street End Allotments	1	—	2
Total	893	659	1,351
Number of days worked by rat catcher	...	...	242
Number of new applications	...	...	72

A person is employed whole time for catching rats. Poison baits, traps and varnish boards are employed as means of catching them in houses, stores, etc., while at the Corporation Refuse Shoot a sulphur gassing machine is used. Since the advent of controlled tipping at the Refuse Shoot the rat population has been considerably reduced and the number caught there is but a fraction of what it was years ago.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

The number of licensed slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year was 50. The licences are granted for a period of 3 years and the majority expired on 31st December 1939. Applications for the renewal of several of them have not been received.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

On the 1st October, 1939, the Borough of Chatham became a Sampling Authority and since that date the Sanitary Inspectors have been responsible for the taking of samples of Food and Drugs. Previously the duty was carried out by the Kent County Council and I am indebted to W. R. Breed, Esq. for particulars of samples taken from 1st January to 30th September, 1939.

Article.	1. 1. 39	to	1. 10. 39	to	Total
		30. 9. 39		31. 12. 39	
Butter	...	3	...	3	...
Milk	...	45	...	21	...
Margarine	...	1	...	2	...
Whisky	...	—	...	2	...
Beer	...	2	...	1	...
Gin	...	—	...	1	...
Cooking Fat	...	1	...	1	...
Ground Almonds	...	—	...	1	...
Dried Fruit	...	1	...	—	1

Article	1. 1. 39		1. 10. 39		Total
	to	30. 9. 39	to	31. 12. 39	
Jam ...	3	...	—	...	3
Fish Paste ...	1	...	—	...	1
Sausage ...	1	...	—	...	1
Ammon. Tinct. Quinine	2	...	—	...	2
Cod Liver Oil	2	...	—	...	2
Comp. Liquorice Powder	1	...	—	...	1
Castor Oil ...	2	...	—	...	2
Tinct. Iodine ...	2	...	—	...	2
Camphorated Oil ...	2	...	—	...	2
Olive Oil ...	2	...	—	...	2
Boracic Acid Ointment	2	...	—	...	2
New Laid Eggs ...	8	...	—	...	8
Honey ...	1	...	—	...	1
Fresh Cream ...	1	...	—	...	1
Lemon Curd ...	1	...	—	...	1
Soda Water ...	2	...	—	...	2
—	—	86	—	32	118
—	—	—	—	—	—

PROSECUTIONS

A manufacturer of jam was summoned under Articles 4 & 7 of the Public Health—Preservatives in Food—Regulations 1925/1927 in respect of Strawberry Jam found on analysis to contain an excessive amount of sulphur dioxide. A fine of £10 with £7 5s. costs was imposed. This sample was taken in 1938.

One sample of milk was found to be deficient in fat. After enquiries it was decided to warn the defendant.

NOTICES SERVED

Informal Notices ...	...	...	...	...	266
Statutory Notices—Sec. 93. Public Health Act, 1936					52
Statutory Notices—Sec. 50 Public Health Act, 1936					102
Statutory Notices—Sec. 11 Housing Acts, 1936					—

VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Restaurants ...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Drainage and subsequent visits ...	...	...	...	...	...	269
Repairs and subsequent visits ...	...	...	...	...	...	1937
Housing Acts ...	...	...	...	...	...	497
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	535
Slaughterhouses ...	...	...	...	...	...	2775
Houses let in Lodgings ...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Common Lodging Houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Fish Fryers ...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Marine Stores ...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Knacker Yard ...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Gut Factory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	109
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Houses, 1st Visit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	530
Ice Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Contagious Diseases of Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Market	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Stables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Courts and Alleys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	175
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	278
Bedding and Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	261
Unsound Food and Cold Store	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	117
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	141
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Drains tested (New)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	508
Council House Applicants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Rats Order	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Gipsy Encampment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Refuse Heaps and Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Removals to Council Houses and Disinfect:	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
A.R.P.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	266
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Delivery of Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Interviews (Owners, Builders)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
Cyanide Fumigation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Milk for Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
								9,927

NUISANCES ABATED

During the year the following nuisances were abated under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

Accumulation of Refuse, etc., removed	...	...	...	...	5
Ceilings whitened	...	...	...	...	40
Broken W.C. Pans repaired	...	...	...	...	11

Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	51
Cesspool Covers repaired or sealed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cesspools filled in	...	...	...	...	...	3
Chimney pots replaced	...	...	...	...	...	6
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	18
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	647
Coppers repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	13
Door locks or fasteners repaired	...	...	...	...	...	10
Doors or frames repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
Doors provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drainage of old buildings relaid	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drains ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	5
Firegrates renewed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Firegrates repaired	...	...	...	...	...	16
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	13
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	25
Flues repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
Flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	...	26
Gutters or downpipes cleared	...	...	...	...	...	15
Gutters or down pipes provided	...	...	...	...	...	62
Inspection covers provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
Interiors cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	25
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	96
Sinks provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	11
Sink waste pipes repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Stairtreads or steps repaired	...	...	...	...	...	23
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	99
Damp walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	47
Weatherboards or external walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	27
Windows reglazed	...	...	...	...	...	31
Window frames, sashes and sills repaired	...	...	...	...	...	41
W.C. seats or risers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
W.C. structures rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	6
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	14
Verminous bedding cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	10
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	24
Drains connected to Corporation Sewer	...	...	...	...	...	66
Houses reconditioned	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	41

THOMAS HOWARD,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Chatham.

30th October, 1940.

Factory and Workshop Act 1901 and the Factories Act 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938).

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power	—	—	—
Factories without "	135	—	1
*Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out- workers' premises).	—	—	—
*Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.	—	—	—
Total ...	135	—	1

2.—Defects found

Particulars (1)	No. of Defects			No. of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) { Unsuitable or defective Not separate for sexes Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Other offences	3	3	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order 1921 and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act 1937.)				
Total	4	4	—	—

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.

Nature of Work (1)	Instances. (2)	Notices served (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Wearing Apparel :—			
Making, etc.	—	—	—
Cleaning and washing	—	—	—
Household linen	—	—	—
Lace, lace curtains and nets ..	—	—	—
Curtains and furniture hangings ..	—	—	—
Furniture and upholstery ..	—	—	—
Electro-plate	—	—	—
File making	—	—	—
Brass and brass articles	—	—	—
Fur pulling	—	—	—
Cables and chains	—	—	—
Anchors and grapnels	—	—	—
Cart gear	—	—	—
Locks, latches and keys	—	—	—
Umbrellas, etc.	—	—	—
Artificial flowers	—	—	—
Nets, other than wire nets ..	—	—	—
Tents	—	—	—
Sacks	—	—	—
Racquet and tennis balls ..	—	—	—
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags ..	—	—	—
Brush making	—	—	—
Pea Picking	—	—	—
Feather sorting	—	—	—
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc. ..	—	—	—
Stuffed toys	—	—	—
Basket making	—	—	—
Chocolates and sweetmeats ..	—	—	—
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc. ..	—	—	—
Textile weaving	—	—	—
Lampshades	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—

Section D.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	585
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1937
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	126
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	497
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	30
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	555

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	208
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	154
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	135
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	15
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	11
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	—

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV—OVERCROWDING:—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded on 31st December, 1939	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	207
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	693
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
2 cases due to increase in ages of children.								

NEW HOUSES DURING 1939

(a) The total number of dwelling-houses on plans submitted during 1939 was:—								
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

By private persons	...	...	...	...	134			
By the Corporation	...	...	...	...	157			
					291			

(b) The total number of houses erected during 1939 was:—								
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	195			
By the Corporation	...	...	...	...	157			
					352			

(c) With State Assistance under the Housing Act:—								
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

By the Local Authority (included in the above total (b))	65							
--	----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

By other bodies or persons	nil
----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

CLEARANCE AREAS

Areas taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Houses included	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	257
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	257

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

314 houses were reported up to the end of 1939.

Of these 190 were demolished.

58 were rendered fit.

8 were closed under undertaking not to re-let.

34 were not yet demolished.

Parts of 3 houses have been subject to closing orders. Action not completed during 1939—21 cases. There have been 38 individual houses reconditioned by informal action.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

This is a very important duty of a Public Health Department and much of the Sanitary Inspector's time is occupied in visiting slaughterhouses and premises where food is prepared or sold.

Particulars of the number of Cowsheds, Registered Cowkeepers, Purveyors of Milk, etc., are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

POTTED AND PRESERVED MEAT

The supervision of this class of business is important. Ready cooked and prepared foods are being increasingly used by the public and a close watch is kept on such premises. They are registered under a local act.

ICE CREAM

The manufacture of Ice Cream is conducted under greatly improved conditions and is very largely in the hands of large producers, who are able to make it under good sanitary conditions and the method of distribution in packages is replacing sale in bulk. The manufacture of ice cream is the subject of regulation under the Chatham Corporation Act, 1923.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Particulars are included in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

These examinations are conducted by the Kent County Council.

NUTRITION

Lectures are given at the Mothercraft Centre and to various bodies in the town by the Medical Officer of Health and Deputy Medical Officer of Health on food values.

Section F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1939

Disease			Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	...	...	86	80	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	61	18	—
Pneumonia	...	...	19	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	7	7	—
Erysipelas	...	...	10	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—
Ophalmia Neonatorum	...	...	1	1	—
Malaria	...	...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	3	—	—
Measles	...	...	2	—	—

PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORIES

		Pos.	Neg.	Total
Diphtheria Swabs	...	61	216	277
Tubercle Sputum	...	49	176	225
Hairs for Ringworm	...	—	—	—
Serum for Typhoid	...	—	—	—
Fæces for Typhoid	...	—	—	—

SUPPLY OF ANTI-TOXIN

Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept at the Public Health Department Elm House, 15, New Road Avenue, and at the Chief Fire Station, Railway Street, and is supplied free of charge to medical practitioners. It can be obtained at any hour of the day or night.

The number of units issued during 1939 was 936,000.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The Clinic first opened at the end of 1929 and is held every Wednesday.

New cases (1939)	...	...	...	...	...	80
Immunised	...	...	...	...	...	80
Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	176

The following table shows the numbers and ages of the new cases:—

1- 2 years	2- 3 years	3- 4 years	4- 5 years	5- 6 years	6- 7 years	7- 8 years	8- 9 years	9-10 years	10-11 years	11-12 years	12-13 years	13-14 years	Totals
29	6	7	5	17	7	3	1	2	2	—	—	1	80

The yearly figures are as follows:—

Year	Total New Cases	Total Immunised	Total Attendances
1930	... 432	388	2182
1931	... 614	560	2716
1932	... 575	561	2819
1933	... 459	405	2295
1934	... 392	359	1944
1935	... 526	482	2271
1936	... 415	395	2049
1937	... 398	381	1773
1938	... 138	129	775
1939	... 80	80	176
Totals	... 4029	3740	19000

The immunising agent used up till the end of July, 1937, was Toxoid Anti Toxin Mixture (T.A.M.) when 3 inoculations were given at fortnightly intervals, a final Schick Test being made about 3 months after the last injection. The dosage for the first two inoculations is 1 c.c. and for the third 1.5 c.c. If there was a positive reaction Toxoid Anti Toxin Floccules (T.A.F.) was used.

From July, 1937, onwards Alum Precipitated Toxoid (A.P.T.) has been used when only 1 small dose is given to test the child's reaction and if satisfactory the full dose is given 3 weeks later. The child is then Schick tested 2 or 3 months after. The dosage for the first dose is 0.1 c.c. (Children over 10) and 0.2 c.c. (children under 10), the full dose being 0.4 c.c.

ENTERIC FEVER

There were no cases of Enteric Fever notified.

SMALL POX

There were no cases

VACCINATION

I am indebted to the Vaccination Officer of the Chatham and Rochester District for the following information:—

Number of cases in the Birth Lists received from Registrar of Births during the year	...	...	...	...	1046
Number of certificates of successful vaccinations received during the year	...	...	...	...	537
Number of certificates of postponement owing to the health of the child received during the year	...	...	...	...	16
Number of certificates of postponement owing to infectious disease	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Statutory Declarations received during the year	448				
Number of certificates of insusceptibility received during the year	...	...	...	...	3
Number of cases where parents have moved from the district	...	...	...	...	72
Number otherwise not found	...	...	...	...	37

INFLUENZA

There were 5 deaths from Influenza compared with 2 for 1938.

CANCER

The facilities for diagnosis and treatment are General Practitioners, the County and Voluntary Hospitals.

The total number of deaths was 43 males and 22 females.

VENEREAL DISEASE

The treatment Centre for the Medway Area is situated at 36, New Road Rochester, and is provided by the Kent County Council.

I am indebted to H. Nicol, Esq., F.R.C.S. the Medical Officer in charge, for the following particulars:—

New Patients	Chatham:—				Male	Female	Total
			
Syphilis	10	6	16
Soft Sore	1	—	1
Gonorrhœa	32	7	39
Non-venereal	36	6	42
					79	19	98
Total number of new patients from all areas served	...						404

	Male	Females	Total
Average number of Chatham patients under daily treatment or observation during 1939	122

Discharges (all districts served).

Discharged cured.

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	22	24	46
Soft Sore	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	...	84	37	121
Non-venereal	...	...	...	...	128	31	159

Defaulted before final test of cure.

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	6	1	7
Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	...	11	—	11

Defaulted before completion of treatment.

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	5	21	26
Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	...	23	11	34

Total attendances of Chatham patients 2,943

Total attendances of all districts served ... 10,993

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORIUM

Notified	Cases		Vision Un- impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths				
	Treated									
	At home	In hospital								
1	—	1	1	—	—	—				

TUBERCULOSIS.

Table showing new cases and Mortality during 1938.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	...	—	1	4	2	1	—	—
15—25 years	...	7	6	3	—	7	6	1
25—35 years	...	7	5	1	—	2	2	2
35—45 years	...	15	5	1	—	2	—	—
45—55 years	...	6	1	—	—	2	—	—
55—65 years	...	3	—	—	—	3	—	—
65 years up	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	..	39	18	10	2	17	10	3

NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS

PULMONARY

Total Notifications	...	...	...	57
By Private Practitioners	...	...	...	20
Hospitals and Poor Law Institutions	...	...	...	21
Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	...	8
Transferred from other districts	...	...	...	8

NON-PULMONARY

Total Notifications	...	...	...	12
By Private Practitioners	...	...	...	1
Hospitals and Poor Law Institutions	...	...	...	4
Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	...	4
Transferred from other districts	...	...	...	3

CLASSIFICATION OF NON-PULMONARY CASES

Glandular	...	...	...	...	3
Meninges	...	...	...	...	—
Bones and Joints	...	...	...	...	5
Abdomen	...	...	...	...	4

DELAY IN NOTIFICATION

Name	Notification Received	Date of Death
E.H.	...	11. 7.39

On January 1st, 1939, there were on the Register :—

		Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	76	47	123
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	15	24	39
On December 31st, 1939, the numbers were :—				
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	89	52	141
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	25	26	51

The number of cases removed from the Register during 1939 was :—

Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	35
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	2

7 of the above removals were presumed to be cured, as there was no record of continued treatment and five years had elapsed in the case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and three years in the case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis since the Primary Notification.

19 had died and 9 had left the district.

There were 7 deaths from unnotified cases of Tuberculosis.

Notification on the whole is satisfactory.

